श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : महोदया, यह चीज पहले से तय रहती है कि लोक सभा और राज्य सभा में... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Kindly adjourn the House.

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मतंग सिंह) : वे आ गए हैं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prime Minister, everybody is so fond of you in this House that they just get very upset even if you are one minute on the way.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister not only to his delay but to the fact that single Cabinet Minister is present in the House. The Chairman gave a ruling more than once in this regard... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. A. BABY: He may induct some more Ministers into the Cabinet. ...(*Interruptions*)....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister is standing, let him answer.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Madam, I am sorry for the delay. I can only say that I know how to hold up the proceedings of the House now!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 801.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Functioning of National Federation of Industrial Cooperative Limited

*801. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work in the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Limited has come to a stand-still as the Ministry of Industry has not released grants to it for the last two years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has no regular Managing Director to run the organisation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the company has not paid salary to its staff members; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to overcome these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The affairs of the Federation are being managed by the Board of Directors and they need not depend on Government grant. However, Government have released a grant of Rs. 15 lakhs during the year 1994-95 to mitigate the hardship of the employees, when it was represented to the Government that the Federation had no funds for payment of salaries.

(b) Yes, Sir. The addtional charge of the post of the Managing Director has been given to one of the Directors of the Ministry. However, action has already been initiated to fill up the post of the Managing Director on a full time basis.

(c) The Federation has paid the salaries to all its employees upto the month of March, 1995.

(d) (i) In order to reduce the establishment cost of the Federation, at Government's initiative, KVIC has agreed to appoint 16 employees in its establishment against its existing vacancies.

(ii) The Special General Body of meeting of NAFIC has entrusted the work of preparation of a bnsiness plan for revival of NAFIC to an expert team.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am not satisfied with the reply of our hon. Minister. I don't know whether he has wilfully suppressed the facts or not. But anyhow more real facts have been suppressed.

The Department has suggested NAFIC consisting of SSI and ARI to prune the Golden Hand-shake Scheme for its employes vide letter No. 11(24)|92, ICC dt. 20th October, 1992. I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government has decided to wind up the National Federation of Industrial Cooperative Ltd, if so, whether the prescribed procedures of the cooperative law have been followed to come to a conclusion for its closure since the organisation was formed under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act. I would also like to know whether the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has submitted any report in respect of the closure of the NIFCL prior to seeking the consent of the employees to opt for the VRS. This is my first supplementary.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Long question.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam Deputy Chairman. I have no intention to suppress any information from the House. Our Department has suggested various measures to revitalise or revamp the organisation. One of them is the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. In the meanwhile, the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has not accepted that. He has asked the General Body meeting to decide on the future of the Federation. Madam, we have no intention to wind up the National Federation of industrial Cooperative Ltd which is registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act. 1984. The decision to wind up the organisation is vested with the members of the Societies and the Central Registrar of Cornerative Societies. Of course, we do not have any authority to wind up the organisation.

SHRI S MUTHU MANI: Madam, he has not answered my question. My question was specific. Madam, 69 employees of NAFIC have opted for VRS. Sixteen employees have been absorbed by the KVIC through their order dated 2.5.95. What does this mean? They have already issued a letter from their Department. That has to be found out. Now, he is repeating the same answer which he has already given. My question has not been answered. I want to place it on record.

Now, I am putting my second supplementary. May I know from the Minister whether it is fact that 69 persons in NFIC Ltd. have opted for VRS as per the Inter Office Memo dated 1-2-1994. If so, what action has been taken by the Government to disburse payments to the staff and to the officers of the NFIC Ltd., who have opted for VRS. By which date disbursement of amount will be made? I would like the hon. Minister to assure this House that until VRS is implemented, there will not be any interruption in the disbursement of salaries to the staff and to the officers of the NIFC Ltd.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam Deputy Chairman, disbursement of salaries to the staff has been cleared up to March. 1995 by the federation.

Madam, in accordance with the suggestions made by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, a Special General Body meeting was held on the 4th May 1995 in Delhi, mainly to consider the present state of NAFIC and to decide the future strategy. In the special General Body meeting, it has been unanimously resolved that in no case should NAFIC be closed. But corrective measures should be teken for its revitalisation. The General Body also took the following decisions in this connection. "The Federation should be revitalised. The Executive Committee constituted should meet regularly to chalk out plans for revitalising the organisation and to exercise the powers of the Board till the election takes place. An Expert Committee, under the leadership of Mr. B. D. Sharma, will prepare business plan. The Committee may be requested to do

it at the earlise. The Government will be requested to post a full-time Managing Director having experience in this field. The Staff strength is lopsided. It has to be pruned heavily. The Managing Director should take action immediately in consultation with the Government. The Government should be requested to clear the liabilities and give assistance for a certain period as per the revival package. After the breathing period, the NAFIC should be left alone to stand on its own feet. While framing the package, things such as reducing the area of offices, settling litigations through negotiations, should be kept in mind. Election for the Board of Directors should be planned after some time."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Muthu Mani, you have had two supplementaries. Are you satisfied? If you are not, he will put your question. Mr. Jagesh Desai.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I am very happy that the Government has made Rs. 15 lakhs available so that the employees can get their salaries. I think this should be a model to be followed by the Ministries. Madam, it was said that there was a Special General Body meeting and a Special Committee was entrusted with the work of seeing how it can be revived. I would like to know when the meeting was held and whether any time limit was given to the Committee to submit its report so that the work could be started as early as possible and the unit could be made viable.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The General Body meeting was held very recently. We are awaiting the report. We will speed up the work.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करूंगा क्वेश्चन के "बी" पार्ट की तरफ जिसमें सरकार ने स्वीकार किया है कि मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर का पद बहुत दिनों से खाली है। हम लोगों को ये अनुभव हो रहा है कि पब्लिक सेक्टर में और दूसरी जगहों पर छह-छह महीने, साल-साल भर तक पोस्टें खाली रहती हैं, ऐक्टिंग पर चलती रहती हैं। संयोग से हमारे प्रधान मंत्री हैं जो प्रधान मंत्री भी रहे हैं इतने रोज से और साथ ही बहुत डिपार्टमेंट्स भी रन कर रहे हैं। क्या एक इनबिल्ट सिस्टम नहीं हो सकता है कि कोई पोस्ट खाली होगी, उसके पहले तय करके हम उसको भर दें? यह बड़े ताज्जुब की बात है कि पब्लिक सेक्टर्स और दूसरी जगहों में जगहें खाली रहती हैं, इसलिए हम जानना चाहेंगे प्रधान मंत्री जी से कि क्या कोई ऐसा रास्ता निकल सकता है या नहीं निकल सकता है?

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री पी. वी. नरसिंह राव) : एक तो यह पब्लिक सेक्टर नहीं है, कोआपरेटिव है और जहां तक मैं समझता हूं कोआपरेटिव सेक्टर में हमारा दखल नहीं होना चाहिए। जितना कम हो उतना अच्छा है। ये मांग हमेशा ही आती रही है। कोआपरेटिव सेक्टर में बहुत कुछ हमको काम करने से रोका जाता है, हमारी आजादी एकदम खत्म कर दी जाती है, इसलिए आप हस्तक्षेप न करें तो अच्छा है। जब पैसा कम पड़ जाता है और कोआपरेटिव नुकसान में चलने लग जाती है तब फिर सरकार का फर्ज हो जाता है, ये कैसे होता है, यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आया। इसलिए मैं यह चाहता हूं कि मेरे कोलीग ने बता तो दिया है कि पन्द्रह लाख दिए, बीस लाख दिए और इसको किसी न किसी तरह से चलाने की हम कोशिश करेंगे लेकिन सिद्धांततः मैं मानता हूं कि यह कोई सही तरीका नहीं है। इस केस के बारे में मैं पर्सनली देखूंगा कि क्यों यह हुआ है और गलती उनकी है तो फिर हमें क्यों, हम पर क्यों जुर्माना आयद किया जा रहा है, यह भी देखने की जरूरत है। यही हम चाहते हैं उन लोगों के साथ लेकिन ऐसा तो नहीं हो सकता है कि एक सिस्टम में सारे अधिकार एक तरफ हों और सारी जिम्मेदारियां दूसरी तरफ हों, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए।

I will personally look into this Madam, because here is a question where there is a contradiction. They do not want the Government, normally, to

interfere. Whenever they get into trouble, if someone wants to find a way out, they pass a resolution saying, "No, it cannot be wound up'. How do you run it if you cannot wind it up? Some way has to be found. So, I will personally look into this. Probably, this can be a test case, a kind of case from which we could draw lessons for other institutions also.

As regards the PSUs, of course, that is a different matter. This is for co-operatives.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: If you do not interfere, it is okay. Once you have interefered, then why are the posts lying vacant for years?

Reclamation of wasteland in Orissa

*802. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made in Orissa regarding availability of wasteland;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the amount allocated for the reclamation of such wasteland, district-wise;

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete the scheme; and

(e) the area so far reclaimed in Kalahandi district and what is the total amount so far utilised in the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL RAM SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No detailed survey has yet been conducted, district-wise for the identification of wastelands for the whole country. However, under the National Wastelands Identification Programme, detailed survey for thirteen districts of Orissa having more than 5 per cent of wastelands has been conducted by the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad. The list of these districts alongwith the area of wastelands in each of these districts is given at statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Department of Wastlands development has sanctioned nine projects in Orissa under the Integrated Wastelands Development Project scheme at a total outlay of Rs. 19.02 crores. These projects would be implemented over a period of 3—5 years starting from 1992-93. The details of these projects one given at statement-II. (*See* below).

(e) An area of 4,966 hectares has been developed in Kalahandi District for which Rs. 2.30 crores under Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme has been utilised.

Statement I

S. No.	Districts of Orissa	Area of wastelands in hactares
1.	Balasore	21,842
2.	Bolangir*	1,27,842
3.	Cuttack	76,853
4.	Dhenkanal	1,53,541
5.	Ganjam	4,31,086